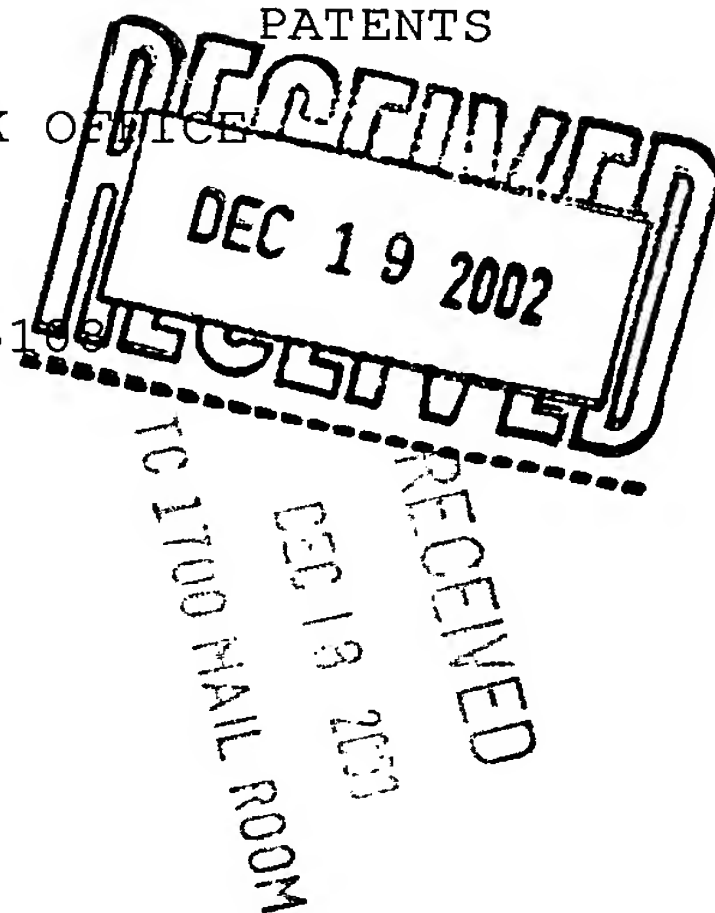




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T01-4929

PATENTS



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kunimoto SUGIYAMA et al.

Confirmation No. 5108

Serial No. 10/009,764

Group 1724

Filed December 17, 2001

METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING A FILTER ELEMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with Rules 1.97 and 1.98, and in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56, the accompanying documents, copies of which are attached to this statement, are made of record on the enclosed sheet.

A concise explanation of the relevance of these items is that these references were cited by the European Patent Office in the corresponding European Application Serial No. 00 93 7242. A copy of the Supplementary European Search Report in which they were cited is attached hereto.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a

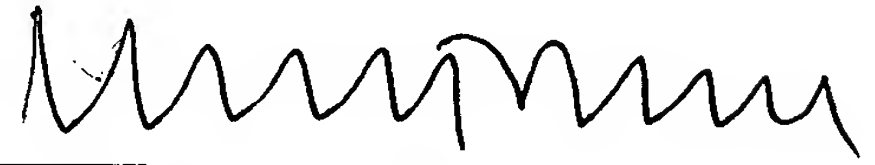
S.N. 10/009,764

counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 17, 2002